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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

BAUM, RONALD

ART UNIT

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/665,419	<b>Applicant(s)</b> PURNELL, JOHN	
	<b>Examiner</b> RONALD BAUM	<b>Art Unit</b> 2139	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 June 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

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### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in reply to applicant's correspondence of 03 June 2008.
2. Claims 1-26 are pending for examination.
3. Claims 1-26 remain rejected.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 11-15, 17-19, 21-25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smithies et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,091,835.

5. As per claim 1; "An identity management system to authenticate the identity of an individual, comprising:

a vetting workstation

to verify the identity of the individual and

generate identification data [*Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col.11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5*

*and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system for associating a specific (authenticated 'to verify the identity of the individual') party to a document, transaction or event, via an affirmation 'ceremony' sequence of recorded steps, implemented as part of a client/server (and associated databases supporting the various workstations/client functions) configuration over a wide area network (i.e., the Internet /WEB), and more*

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*particularly, the workstations utilized as parts of the affirmation process of authenticating parties (i.e., vetting, enrollment inclusive of issuance of affirmation tokens ('generate identification data '), such as smart cards, etc.,) for affirmation of given documents, transactions or events, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.],*

wherein the vetting workstation

authenticates the personal information of the individual

through at least one database of at least one of

law enforcement,

government and

background checking organizations [Abstract, col. 1, line

15-col.11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions,

whereas the affirmation system for associating a specific party to a document, transaction or event, via an affirmation 'ceremony' sequence of recorded steps, implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network, and more particularly, the workstations utilized as parts of the affirmation process of authenticating parties (i.e., vetting), such that the authentication process where the signature capture/verification aspects are applied to existing systems dealing with, for example, the governmental filing systems (e.g., the EDGAR database system, associating a requested database access to subject information stored in the

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EDGAR government database (col. 16,lines 17-38), and, the obtaining a good record of the identity, etc., in the case of governmental licenses, compliance papers (e.g., tax returns), and the like (col. 41,lines 38-61)) used for the authentication, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.];

an enrollment workstation

to enroll the individual whose identity has been verified,

to issue a physical identification token, and

generate identification data [*Abstract, col. 1,line 15-col.11,line 40, figures 1-3, 5*

*and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system for associating a specific (authenticated/verified) party to a document, transaction or event, implemented as part of a client/server configuration over workstations utilized as parts of the affirmation process of authenticating parties (i.e., enrollment inclusive of issuance of affirmation tokens (' to issue a physical identification token '), such as smart cards, etc.,) for affirmation of given documents, transactions or events, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.]; and*

a core system

networked with

the vetting workstation and

the enrollment workstation

to provide

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a central clearinghouse for the storage and  
exchange of identification data [*Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col. 11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system implemented as part of a client/server (and associated databases supporting the various workstations/client functions) configuration over a wide area network (i.e., the Internet /WEB), and more particularly, the workstations utilized as parts of the affirmation process, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.*].”.

And further as per claim 11, this claim is the method claim for the apparatus (system) claim 1 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 1 rejection; “An identity management process for authenticating the identity of an individual, comprising:

pre-enrolling the individual in an identity management system by collecting personal information submitted by the individual and storing the information in a database;

vetting the individual by authenticating the personal information through at least one database of at least one of law enforcement, government and background checking organizations;

enrolling the individual into the identity management system; comparing personal information collected during pre-enrolling to data collected during enrolling;

vetting the individual by conducting at least a background check of the individual; and  
issuing a physical identification token to the individual.”.

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And further as per claim 21, this claim is the embodied software claim for the apparatus (system) claim 1 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 1 rejection; “A computer usable program embodied on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, comprising:

pre-enrolling an individual in the identity management system by recording personal information submitted by the individual;

enrolling the individual into the identity management system;

vetting the individual by authenticating personal data through the query of a plurality of databases including law enforcement, government and background checking organizations; and issuing a physical identity token to the individual.”.

6. Claim 2 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management system of claim 1, further comprising

a security check workstation

to validate the identity of the individual at a facility using

the identification token, and

to record identification data, wherein

the core system is networked with

a security check workstation.”.

The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1,line 15-col.11,line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system for associating a specific party to a document, transaction or event, via an affirmation 'ceremony' sequence of recorded steps,

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implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network, and more particularly, the workstations (' security check workstation ') utilized during (' to record identification data ') the affirmation process for affirmation of given documents, transactions or events with said specific parties, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

And further as per claim 15, this claim is the method claim for the apparatus (system) claim 2 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 2 rejection; "The identity management process of claim 11, further comprising

conducting security checks at least one location using

a security workstation

by at least one of

scanning the identity token of

the individual,

verifying biometric data of

the individual and

querying the core system for

identity data.".

And further as per claim 25, this claim is the embodied software claim for the apparatus (system) claim 2 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 2 rejection;

"The computer program of claim 21, further comprising



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conducting security checks at various locations using  
one or more security workstations by at least one of  
scanning the identity token of  
the individual,  
verifying biometric data of  
the individual and  
querying the core system for  
identity information.”.

7. Claim 3 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management system of claim 1, further comprising

a check-in workstation for  
checking-in individuals possessing the identification token,  
wherein  
the core system is networked with  
the checking workstation.”.

The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col. 11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system for associating a specific party to a document, transaction or event, via an affirmation 'ceremony' sequence of recorded steps, implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network, and more particularly, the workstations (' a check-in workstation ') utilized during (' checking-in individuals possessing the identification token ') the affirmation process for affirmation of given

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documents, transactions or events with said specific parties, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

And further as per claim 14, this claim is the method claim for the apparatus (system) claim 3 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 3 rejection; “The identity management process of claim 11, further comprising

checking-in the individual at a location

by at least one of

scanning the identification token of

the individual,

verifying biometric data of

the individual and

querying the core system for

identity data.”.

And further as per claim 24, this claim is the embodied software claim for the apparatus (system) claim 3 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 3 rejection;

“The computer program of claim 21, further comprising

checking-in the individual by at least one of

scanning the identity token of

the individual,

verifying biometric data of

the individual and  
querying the core system for  
identity information.”.

8. Claim 4 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management system described in claim 3, wherein

the check-in workstation is  
an automated kiosk.”.

The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col. 11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system for associating a specific party to a document, transaction or event, via an affirmation 'ceremony' sequence of recorded steps, implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network, as applied to applications utilizing automated ('automated kiosk ') network nodes (i.e., commercial transaction systems, ATMs, etc., ) and more particularly, the workstations (' a check-in workstation ') utilized during the affirmation process for affirmation of given documents, transactions or events with said specific parties, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

9. Claim 5 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management system described in claim 1, further comprising

a dispatch workstation  
to allow tracking of an individual with respect to the facility,

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to verify the individual's employee status, and  
to verify that the individual has a need to  
access certain areas of the facility,  
wherein  
the core system is electronically connected with  
the dispatch workstation.”.

The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col. 11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system for associating a specific party to an event, via an affirmation 'ceremony' sequence of recorded steps, implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network, and more particularly, the workstations ('a dispatch workstation') utilized during ('allow tracking of an individual ... verify the individual's employee status ... need to access certain areas [events requiring affirmation] ... ') the affirmation process for affirmation of said event(s) with said specific parties, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

10. Claim 7 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management system described in claim 1, wherein

the core system is electronically connected with  
the vetting workstation and  
the enrollment workstation  
using

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a secure connection.”.

The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col. 11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network (i.e., the Internet /WEB, whereas inclusive of SSL, IPsec (the WEB secure communications aspects), etc.), clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

11. Claim 9 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management system described in claim 5, wherein

the core system is networked with

the dispatch workstation

using

a secure connection.”.

The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col. 11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network (i.e., the Internet /WEB, whereas inclusive of SSL, IPsec (the WEB secure communications aspects), etc.), clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

12. Claim 12 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management process of claim 11, wherein

pre-enrolling employs at least one of

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the Internet,  
mail service, and  
personal appearance.”.

The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col. 11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network (i.e., the Internet /WEB, whereas inclusive of SSL, IPsec (the WEB secure communications aspects), etc.), clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

And further as per claim 22, this claim is the embodied software claim for the method claim 12 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 12 rejection; “The computer program of claim 21, wherein

pre-enrolling employs at least one of  
the Internet,  
mail service, and  
personal appearance.”.

13. Claim 13 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management process of claim 11, further comprising

submitting biometric data for  
identification purposes.”.

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The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col. 11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network utilizing biometric authentication/enrollment/verification aspects for the parties identification, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

And further as per claim 23, this claim is the embodied software claim for the method claim 13 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 13 rejection; “The computer program of claim 21, further comprising  
submitting biometric data.”.

14. Claim 17 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management process of claim 14, wherein

checking-in includes

obtaining the identity information queried from the core system

that includes at least one of

a facial image,

an iris scan,

hand geometry,

a fingerprint, and

the like.”.

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The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col. 11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network utilizing biometric authentication/enrollment/checking-in/verification aspects for the parties identification/affirmation, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

15. Claim 18 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management process of claim 15, wherein

conducting security checks includes

obtaining identity information queried from the core system

that includes at least one of

a facial image,

an iris scan,

hand geometry,

a fingerprint, and

the like.”.

The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col. 11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network utilizing biometric authentication/enrollment/conducting security checks/verification aspects for the parties identification/affirmation, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.



16. Claim 19 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management process of claim 16, wherein

identity verification includes

obtaining identity information queried from the core system

includes at least one of

a facial image,

an iris scan,

hand geometry,

a fingerprint, and

the like.”.

The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col.11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network utilizing biometric authentication/enrollment/ identity verification aspects for the parties identification/affirmation, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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17. Claims 6, 8, 10, 16, 20 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smithies et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,091,835.

It is noted that Smithies et al does not disclose the distributed biometric identification system utilized in the transportation environment per se. However, the examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the affirmation system of the Smithies system to be applied as part of a transportation access control mechanism, since such control of access to transportation means/boarding, etc., by individuals using identification aspect of the affirmation process generally, and the affirmation of terms of use (i.e., a 'legal contract' inherently requiring affirmation upon acceptance, of for example, the boarding pass upon purchasing of a train ticket) would be obvious. A recitation directed to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be used does not distinguish the claimed apparatus from the prior art if prior art has the capability to do so (See MPEP 2114 and Ex Parte Masham, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

18. Claim 6 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management system described in claim 1, further comprising

a boarding workstation

to authorize an individual

to board a means of transportation based on

verification of the identity and

travel information regarding the individual,

wherein

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the core system is electronically connected to  
the boarding workstation.”.

The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col. 11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system for associating a specific party to an event, via an affirmation 'ceremony' sequence of recorded steps, implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network, and more particularly, the workstations ('a boarding workstation') utilized during ('to authorize an individual ... to board a means of transportation ... verification of the identity ... travel information regarding the individual [events/terms of boarding requiring affirmation] ... ') the affirmation process for affirmation of said event(s) with said specific parties, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

And further as per claim 16, this claim is the method claim for the apparatus (system) claim 6 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 6 rejection; “The identity management process of claim 11, further comprising

identity verification

prior to boarding a means of transportation

by at least one of

scanning the identification token of

the individual,

verifying biometric data of

the individual and

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querying the core system for  
identity and  
travel information.”.

And further as per claim 26, this claim is the embodied software claim for the apparatus (system) claim 6 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 6 rejection;

“The computer program of claim 21, further comprising

boarding onto the means of transportation by

at least one of

scanning the identity token of

the individual,

verifying biometric data of

the individual and

querying the core system for

identity and

travel information.”.

19. Claim 8 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management system described in claim 6, wherein

the core system is networked with

the check-in workstation and

the boarding workstation

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using

a secure connection.”.

The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col.11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network (i.e., the Internet /WEB, whereas inclusive of SSL, IPsec (the WEB secure communications aspects), etc.), clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

20. Claim 10 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management system described in claim 3, further comprising

a boarding workstation

to authorize an individual

to board a means of transportation based on

verification of the identity and

travel information regarding the individual,

wherein

the core system is electronically connected to

the boarding workstation.”.

The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col.11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system for associating a specific party to an event, via an affirmation 'ceremony' sequence of recorded steps, implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network, and more particularly, the workstations ('a

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boarding workstation ') utilized during (' to authorize an individual ... to board a means of transportation ... verification of the identity ... travel information regarding the individual [events/terms of boarding requiring affirmation] ... ') the affirmation process for affirmation of said event(s) with said specific parties, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

21. Claim 20 *additionally recites* the limitations that; “The identity management process of claim 11, wherein

pre-enrolling,

enrolling and

vetting

are performed in accord with

an access control system of

a transportation facility.”.

The teachings of Smithies et al (Abstract, col. 1, line 15-col. 11, line 40, figures 1-3, 5 and associated descriptions, whereas the affirmation system for associating a specific party to an event, via an affirmation 'ceremony' sequence of recorded steps, implemented as part of a client/server configuration over a wide area network, and more particularly, the workstations utilized during (' pre-enrolling, enrolling and vetting ... access control ... [events/terms of transportation facility utilization requiring affirmation] ... ') the affirmation process for affirmation of said event(s) with said specific parties, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.) suggest such limitations.

***Response to Amendment***

22. As per applicant's argument concerning the lack of teaching by Smithies et al of the vetting aspects of requesting information of a database of at least one of law enforcement, government and background checking organizations, the examiner has fully considered in this response to amendment; the arguments, and finds them not to be persuasive. As explained in the claim 1 rejection above, the authentication aspect of the affirmation 'ceremony' is such that the governmental aspects of the claim limitation are met, as taught in at least col. 16, lines 17-38, and col. 41, lines 38-61.

23. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

***Conclusion***

24. The examiner suggests for the sake of moving prosecution forward that the applicant direct the amendment of claim limitations towards qualifying more explicitly the vetting aspects insofar as those specifics that differentiate the inventive concept from authentication aspects per se, in that vetting and authentication are in themselves very broad concepts, and the fact they are dealt with via database access does not add to any patentable distinction as related to the reference, and possible yet uncovered related prior art.

25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from examiner should be directed to Ronald Baum, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3861, and whose unofficial Fax number is (571) 273-3861 and unofficial email is Ronald.baum@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached at (571) 272-4063. The Fax number for the organization where this application is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. For more information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ronald Baum

Patent Examiner

/R. B./

Examiner, Art Unit 2139

/Kristine Kincaid/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2139